

## Bay Area Holocaust Oral History Project

P.O. Box 25506, San Mateo, CA 94402

**Name of interviewee:** Bromberg, Helen

**Date of interview:** 2/20/1989

**Summary:** Helen Bromberg was born in Warsaw, Poland; she refused to give her birth date during the interview but did tell us that she was a teenager during her time in the concentration camps. Her early memories of Warsaw are very vague. She was forced into the Warsaw ghetto in 1939 with her two sisters, brother, and mother, her father died when she was very young of natural causes. Her brother climbed the ghetto wall and participated in the resistance. One sister was killed early on while they lived in the ghetto; she had been taken to Treblinka where she was gassed.

Her family was then transferred from the Ghetto to the Majdanek camp. She was immediately separated from her mother who was gassed because she could not work. Helen talks in detail about her experiences at this camp. She worked in a hospital, scrubbing floors for 12-14 hour days. She discusses the meager rations she received and the horrors of everyday life.

Over the next five years Helen and her sister stayed in five more concentration camps, including Christof, Chenstalov, Terkime, and Burgau, and finally ended up in Bergen-Belsen, where they were later liberated. The information she gives on the other camps is quite vague and she cannot often discern at what camp certain events occurred. She also talks in great depth about the living conditions in Bergen-Belsen and what it was like to be liberated by the British. After she and her sister were liberated they traveled to Munich to live in a displaced persons' camp. It was in this camp that she met her husband, and a year later they all moved to the United States. Helen and her husband were sent to Texas, while her sister went to Oakland, CA. Later Helen and her husband relocated to Oakland to be closer to her sister. Her family then went on to be quite successful, she lives comfortably with no children. Her husband just recently died of a heart attack. She currently travels speaking to groups about her experiences with the Holocaust.